

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 084820
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/C:DWCOX:MMS

APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS

M/CT - DHECK

S/S - MR. SHANKLE

NSC - MR. PASTOR

S/AB-AMB BUNKER

S:JCAHILL

-----150136Z 082422 /62

P 150050Z APR 77 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

INFO WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 084820

NODIS

FOR CHARGE ONLY; WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ASEC, CO

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF PCV STARR: PRESIDENT LOPEZ'S
POSITION ON PRIVATE RANSOM PAYMENT

REFERENCE: BOGOTA 2453

1. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ RAISED THE ISSUE OF A POSSIBLE PRIVATE RANSOM PAYMENT WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ ON MARCH 25. ONLY OTHER PERSON PRESENT WAS FONMIN LIEVANO.

2. BUNKER AND LINOWITZ STATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS A
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PERSONAL INTEREST IN STARR'S WELFARE. THEY NOTED THAT BOTH THE USG AND GOC HAVE POLICIES OF NOT PAYING RANSOMS, BUT THAT USG POLICY DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE CONSIDERATION AND PAYMENT OF RANSOM DEMANDS BY PRIVATE PARTIES SUCH AS A HOPTAG5HS FAMFLY. THEY STATED THAT IN STARR'S CASE THE USG HOPED THAT, IF-RANSOM DEMANDS ARE MADE, THE GOC WOULD NOT BLOCK EFFORTS OF STARR'S FAMILY OR A REPRESENTATIVE THEREOF

TO NEGOTIATE AND MAKE A RANSOM PAYMENT, IF NECESSARY TO
BRING ABOUT STARR'S SAFE RELEASE.

3. PRESIDENT LOPEZ FIRST INDICATED IRRITATION WITH
THE EMBASSY'S AIDE MEMOIRE ON THE SUBJECT, BUT THEN STATED

THAT, SINCE A LIFE IS AT STAKE, HE WAS PREPARED TO "TAKE
THE POSITION OF A HUSBAND WHO PREFERRED NOT TO KNOW
WHAT HIS WIFE WAS UP TO".

4. WE ARE NOW PLANNING STRATEGY ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT
THE GOC WOULD NOT BLOCK A PRIVATE RANSOM PAYMENT FOR
STARR'S RELEASE. AT SOME TIME IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO
APPROACH LOPEZ OR LIEVANO TO ASK THAT THE GOC GIVE
EFFECT TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ'S COMMITMENT.

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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